

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2942

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB: EAST-SOUTH TRADE

1. GROUP D COUNTRIES, ABETTED BY THE SKILLFUL AND AT TIMES SCANDALOUSLY PARTISAN EFFORTS OF THE CHAIRMAN (HUNGARIAN) OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II, MANAGED TO STAVE OFF CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 2 (DEFINITION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS OF EXPERTS TO BE CONVENED PURSUANT TO SECTION VI PARAGRAPHS 9-B AND 11 OF RESOLUTION 95-IV)-- WHICH WAS ONLY ITEM OF REAL INTEREST TO G-77--UNTIL NEXT TO LAST SCHEDULED SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF COMMITTEE. STRONG G-77 REACTION TO THIS TACTIC FINALLY COMPELLED GROUP D TO TABLE DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE IGG TERMS OF REFERENCE. (TEXTS TRANSMITTED SEPTELS.)

2. GROUP D PROPOSALS ARE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO LIMIT SCOPE OF EXPERTS' WORK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND INPARTICULAR TO AVOID INCORPORATING INTO TERMS OF REFERENCE CONCRETE FORMULATIONS FOR GROUP D ACTION SUCH AS THOSE CONTAINED IN SECTIONS III AND IV OF RESOLUTION 95-IV. THEY ARGUE THAT GROUP OF EXPERTS WHO WILL DEAL WITH "TRADE OPPORTUNITIES" MUST BASE THEIR WORK SOLELY ON THE REPORT OF THE SYG ON HIS CONSUL-

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TATIONS (PURSUANT TO SECTION VI PARAGRAPH 9-A OF RESOLUTION

95-IV) AND THAT INCLUSION OF NON-MULTILATERAL ASPECTS SUCH AS THOSE CITED IN SECTION III OF THE RESOLUTION WOULD OVER--BURDEN THE EXPERTS. G-77, SUPPORTED BY GROUP B, ARE INSISTING THAT GROUP D PROPOSALS ARE TOO VAGUE AND GENERAL AND THAT UNLESS BOARD PROVIDES SUFFICIENT POLICY GUIDANCE THROUGH ADOPTION OF MORE CONCRETE TERMS OF REFERENCE EXPERTS WILL SPEND ALL THEIR TIME ARGUING ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.

3. AT MEETING OF INFORMAL "DRAFTING GROUP" OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II ON OCTOBER 14, G-77 TABLED TWO COUNTERPROPOSALS. (SELF-EXPLANATORY TEXTS ALSO TRANSMITTED SEPTELS.) PRELIMINARY GROUP D REACTION TO BOTH COUNTERPROPOSALS WAS STRONGLY NEGATIVE BUT THEY AGREED TO DISCUSS THEM FURTHER IN INFORMAL GROUP CONTACTS OVER THE WEEKEND. DRAFTING GROUP SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN MONDAY AFTERNOON.

4. GROUP B POSTURE THROUGHOUT DEBATE HAS BEEN LOW KEY BUT SPOKESMAN HAS OCCASIONALLY PROVIDED FIRM AND FORTHRIGHT SUPPORT TO G-77. GROUP D ATTEMPTS TO DRAG EAST-WEST TRADE ISSUES INTO DISCUSSION HAVE BEEN PERFUNCTORY AND HAVE NOT REQUIRED STRONG GROUP B REACTION. ONLY EAST-WEST IMPLICATION THUS FAR IS PROBABILITY THAT COMMITTEE REPORT WILL SUGGEST TO UNCTAD SECRETARIAT THAT IT REQUEST RELEVANT ECE DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL TO EXPERTS AS THEY CONSIDER EASTERN EUROPEAN TRADE AND PAYMENTS PRACTICES, IN THE EAST-SOUTH CONTEXT.

5. SINCE GROUP B POSTURE IS ESSENTIALLY THAT OF BYSTANDER USDEL DOES NOT REQUIRE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON TRANSMITTED TEXTS BUT WOULD OF COURSE BE PLEASED TO HAVE ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE.CATTO

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